

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing all previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and 35 U.S.C. § 112.

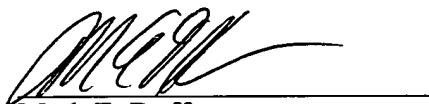
The Examiner has now rejected claims 22-25, 28, 29, 33-40, 43, 46-47, 59, 62, 64, 87-89, 96, 101, 106, 108-111, 116, and 117 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over USPN 6,184,043. The Examiner further rejected claims 22-25, 28, 29, 33-40, 43, 46-47, 59, 62, 64, 87-89, 96, 101, 106, 108-111, 116, and 117 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over USPN 6,184,043 (Fodstad et al.) in view of USPN 4,497,900 (Abrams et al.). Applicants traverse these rejections.

While not conceding the correctness of the Examiner's position, in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants attach herewith a terminal disclaimer to obviate these rejections. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney of record at the number below if the Examiner feels that prosecution can be advanced thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

2/3/04
Date



Mark E. Deffner
Reg. No. P-55,103
Merchant & Gould P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

MED:kf

